

**FERC RELICENSING OF THE OROVILLE FACILITY  
CULTURAL RESOURCES WORK GROUP  
APRIL 2002 UPDATE**

The last Cultural Resources Work Group (CRWG) meeting was held at Berry Creek Rancheria on March 19, 2002. At that meeting it was agreed that summaries of activities conducted during April and May would be distributed to the CRWG in monthly updates in lieu of holding a regular monthly meeting. This document provides that summary and fulfills the obligations of Action Item #C41, as identified in the meeting notes posted for the March CRWG meeting.

**Study Plan C-1 Update**

During the month of April, the Cultural Resources consultants continued to develop the research designs and scopes of work that will provide the details for implementing Study Plan C-1 (Inventory). Mark Basgall and Michael Delacorte (California State University, Sacramento) have nearly completed "fleshing out" the outline into a full research design for the archaeological studies element of the study plan. Helen McCarthy (Far Western Anthropological Research Group) has completed the outline for the ethnographic studies portion of the Study Plan C-1.

**Training for Native American Participants Update**

Plans for training local Native American community members to assist with the cultural resources inventory are moving forward and dates have been set for initiating the field work. The first introduction to training was held on Saturday, March 23, 2002 at the Oroville Cultural Resources Project office located at 2128 Myers in Oroville. This day was devoted to providing overviews and descriptions of the kinds of work available for interested parties. Those interested in taking part in one or more aspects of the inventory applied for available positions through the Tribal Legacy Coordinators. Applications for trainee positions were also accepted from individuals who were not available to attend the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Successful candidates took part in more intensive training during April 19-21, 2002. This included a day of safety training at Mooretown Rancheria and two days of archaeology training at the Myers Street office. The second day of archaeology training also involved field work. A total of nine trainees participated in the activities. Archaeology field work is scheduled to begin on May 6, 2002.

**Maidu Advisory Council Update**

Since the last CRWG meeting, the Maidu Advisory Council has met twice: on Wednesday, March 20 and Wednesday, April 24, 2002 at the Oroville Cultural Resources Project office in Oroville.

Frank Winchell, FERC archaeologist, was a guest at the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting since he was in town for the CRWG meeting the night before. Frank summarized his role at FERC, which involves oversight of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act activities as they coordinate with relicensing issues and the Federal Power Act. He also provided information about the Federal Power Act and how the FERC is structured and how it operates. This was followed by a discussion about the kinds of studies involved in a relicensing process and the level of effort expected, and, ultimately, the development of the Cultural Resources Management Plan. Overall, the discussion was very informative. Before he left, Frank commented that establishment of the Advisory Council and the Tribal Legacy Coordinators was, as far as he knew, unique to the relicensing collaborative process. He further stated that he thought it was a very positive approach dealing with sensitive issues and he complimented the group on coming together in this effort.

During the remainder of the meeting, Helen McCarthy went over the detailed outline for the ethnographic/ethnohistoric work proposed in Study Plan 1.

Ward Tabor, DWR attorney from the Office of the Chief Council, was a guest at the Maidu Advisory Council meeting held on April 24, 2002. Ward began with a summary of a meeting that had been held between DPR and DWR regarding the ownership and management of Native American cultural materials that were collected during excavations prior to the filling of the reservoir and those that will be collected during the archaeological survey. Regarding the materials collected in the 1960s, DPR feels that they can't just "hand over" the materials that are under their care for a variety of reasons, but they are very open to the concept of "co-management". Under such an agreement the materials could be physically moved back to Butte County and placed under management and care of the Maidu. Certain criteria would have to be met, including that there be a satisfactory location to store the materials and a guarantee that the artifacts would be available for educational and research purposes. Co-management arrangements have been implemented in a number of cases around the nation and it is the approach used by the Smithsonian Institution. DPR is currently exploring co-management arrangements with the Yurok and several Southern California desert groups. The Council was receptive to the co-management concept and requested that work begin on this effort as soon as possible.

Regarding the materials that will be collected during the field inventory this summer, Ward reported that DPR feels that, in accordance to common practice, the artifacts will "belong" to the institution that is collecting the items (i.e., Sonoma State University) for the duration of the relicensing effort. As has been agreed upon by the CRWG and the Advisory Council, these items will remain in Butte County (except for a small, selected number of artifacts that will be sent to laboratories for analysis and then returned).

Then, in theory, providing there is a curation facility/cultural center constructed as part of the settlement agreement for the relicensing project, the materials would be transferred to that location under the co-management agreement previously discussed. Michael Delecorte reminded the Council that the exact locations of all of the items collected during the survey will be recorded and, if it turns out that such a facility is not constructed, then all of the artifacts can be returned to their original spots.

The discussion about co-management then shifted to the need for a curation facility. Ward mentioned that DPR is trying to pass a bill in the senate to build a large California Indian Museum in the Sacramento area. He also stated that there would be satellite museums around the state and that it is possible that one could end up in Oroville; though he emphasized that this is purely conjectural. But, if the time came and it was appropriate, a partnering with DPR could provide a way to augment the amount of money available to build a curation facility/cultural center.

Following Ward's departure, Michael Delecorte provided an update about the training for Maidu participants and the May 6<sup>th</sup> start-up date for field work, as reported above.

The next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2002. An attempt will be made to have Pauline Grenbeaux and Paulette Hennum, DPR collections curators, attend the meeting to discuss development of a co-management agreement.